The Whistler

Newsletter of the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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From the Editor

To kick off this edition, I'd like to say a huge thank you to our departing President, Shirley Smith. It was Shirley's first time as President and she did a terrific job, bringing her experience and personal style to meetings and the role, and giving two memorable President talks. Shirley has also played an instrumental part in re-instating weekday excursions, which are continuing in the next programme. Great job all-round!

This edition has the report for our autumn weekend away which was to Port Fairy, led by Inta and Roger. This weekend, the Club is heading off to St Arnaud for our spring weekend away, led by Helen and Graeme. On a personal note, this weekend holds a special place for me, as my first ever weekend away with the Club was to St Arnaud, also led by Helen and Graeme, all the way back in 2009! I still remember how desperate I was to see a Brown Treecreeper, but never did. Thankfully I've seen at least a hundred or so since then. I'm looking forward to getting out and maybe see a treecreeper this time. It's encouraging to see so many members attending our weekends away.

While the Whistler is jam-packed with excursion reports and lists, we're getting light-on for member's articles, apart from the two from Judith. Nicky is always helpful with contributing articles as well, but it would be pleasing to see articles from our wider membership. It doesn't have to be a full page, maybe just a paragraph or two and a photo, perhaps of one of your own trips. It all adds to a better newsletter.

Jack Airey
Editor

The weather isn't always perfect for our excursions and weekend away, just ask the people who went to Port Fairy. One day was warm and muggy, then next was grey and windy. We call that "something for everyone" weather.

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Member News

Welcome to our new member - Helen Billman-Jacobe.

President's Report

It has been a pleasure to have been the President of the group for the last 2 years. The past year has again been successful year in terms of quality of our meetings, excursions and weekends away. There has been good attendance at all our activities, and several new members have been welcomed.

Feedback from the group about speakers was taken on board and we have had two wonderful weekends away at Marysville in October 2024 and Port Fairy in March 2025. The Marysville weekend was hosted by Ringwood FNC on behalf of SEANA.

Our excursions have been varied and interesting. I personally have enjoyed the excursions to Jindivick and Labertouche and Murrindindi.

There are many people who need to be thanked for their contribution to the functioning of this club. Firstly, a big thank you to those members who have organised and led excursions and weekends away. Thanks to Jack, Hazel and Alan, Shirley, Lynn and Neal, Inta and Roger, David and Eava and Eleanor and Warwick for organizing the excursions. Thanks also to Roger and Inta for the great weekend at Port Fairy and to the whole Committee under the guidance of Hazel for organizing the SEANA weekend. A good number of club members assisted with the running of the Marysville weekend. Thank you. Secondly, a big thank you to those members who have been speakers during the year or participated in the member 5 Slide night, so thanks to Warwick Dilley, Judith Cooke, Nicki Zanen and David Hewitt for their interesting presentations. If these names sounded almost the same as the people I thanked 12 months ago, you would be correct. Alison would love to have some other people participating in the 6 monthly programs.

During the year we celebrated the awarding of Life Membership to David Hewitt, introduced two Weekday Excursions into the program and participated in planting at a Field Care Day through Maroondah Council.

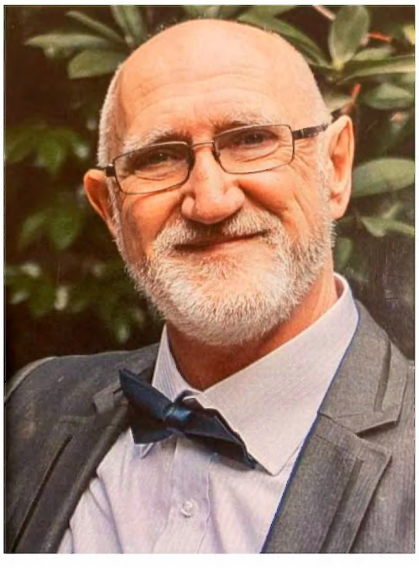
It is a great Committee to work with. Thank you to everyone on the Committee for their contribution to the Club. Thanks, Peter, for taking on the role of Secretary and doing a great job. The club benefits from the good communication to members which you facilitate. Ray Wall is an excellent Treasurer and changes to ATO requirements this year have added to the time Ray has spent on his role. Alison Rogers continued to bring together each of our half-yearly programs. Jack did a wonderful job with Whistler and the Website and the speaker system at meetings. David makes sure the computer and projector is working well at every meeting. Thank you, Hazel and Alan, for hosting Committee meetings at your home.

By Shirley Smith (10th September 2025)

In Memoriam

Vale Keith Pieter Mallegrom

12th October 1952 - 14th June 2025



Keith started his working life as an Aeronautical Engineer with Australian Airlines then Qantas. At the time of his passing, he was still lecturing at Swinburne University where he was well respected.

He was very articulate and loved to use the correct word and was a member of Toastmasters.

He enjoyed RFNC excursions and going to different places. He was particularly interested in birds. After attending several Club excursions, he became interested in fungi. Keith provided images of birds at several of our evening meetings. Keith and his wife Julie have been RFNC members for the last 10 years. Keith loved travelling overseas and in Australia.

Keith was very involved in family life especially with his beloved grandchildren. Due to his dedication to his family, he and Julie were unable to attend recent RFNC activities.

He was watching his footy team Hawthorn play on Friday night and quietly passed away. His sudden and unexpected passing was a shock to his wife Julie and their 3 Sons, Daughter in laws and 8 Grandchildren.

By Lynn Smith

Vale Doug Alkemade

Doug and Sylvanne Alkemade joined the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club in 1975. They became popular members, joining in on all activities. They were both teachers. Doug moved around Melbourne often as a much sort after Principal. He often was sent to schools that needed 'sorting out'. Sylvanne was an Art Teacher.

Doug loved the Australian bush, so fitted in very well at RFNC. During his time at the Club, he joined in with meetings, excursions and campouts.

He also put his skills into helping run the Club. He was Secretary for 6 years in the 1990's.

Due to poor health and recently being in a Care Facility, he was unable to attend meetings.

Our thoughts go to family members.

By Alison Rogers

Vale Betty Norris

Betty and her husband Ron joined the Club in 1972. Living on a bush block in Seville, they enjoyed birdlife coming into their garden and on a dam on their property. Visits to their property were popular for the Club, and we held outdoor meetings there.

When Ron became ill and passed away, Betty moved to Bairnsdale to be closer to family. She continued her love of bird watching and plants in the bush.

She enjoyed receiving our program and newsletter, often ringing Marion King to discuss these.

Betty had just celebrated her 103rd birthday.

Our thoughts go to family members.

By Alison Rogers

Out and About

Autumn Weekend Away – Port Fairy

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th March 2025
Leaders: Inta & Roger Needham

It was very pleasing that 36 members were able to attend the RFNC weekend away at Port Fairy.

At 4.30pm on Friday 14th March members met at Martin's Point picnic area and embarked on a short walk through George Dodd's Reserve to the ocean lookout. The highlight was the sighting of an Australian Spotted Crake on one of the lagoons.

Meeting at Martin's Point

After dinner at Martin's Point people wandered around the vicinity, near to the mouth of the Moyne River, and were captivated by close encounters with three Nankeen Night Herons, two largish Stingrays, a close view of a Musk Duck and distant views of three Hooded Plovers.

George Dodds Reserve

Australian Spotted Crake

Large numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters nest on Griffith Island and there is a viewing platform within walking distance of Martin's Point, so at dusk the group made their way to the platform. Perhaps it was the full moon which delayed their arrival but after waiting over an hour we only sighted about four of the birds flying into their nests.

On Saturday morning the group walked the perimeter of Griffith Island. The forecast was for a hot day but fortunately it remained relatively cool and pleasant. There was not a lot of wildlife on show apart from a Great Egret on a reef and a Shearwater foraging in the water off the Lighthouse.

Martin's Point was our lunch location and while there, Jack and others noticed Fork-tailed Swifts flying very high above us. After lunch and probably a little earlier than scheduled, we headed off in our cars to Yambuk Lake, about 20km west of Port Fairy.

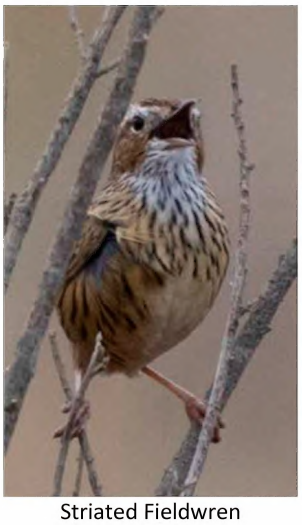
Nankeen Night Heron

From the car park there was a walk of 600 metres to the mouth of the Eumerella River. The waders often resident there including Red-necked Stints, Red-capped Plovers and Double-banded Plovers flew off to the east before many members could see them. Then, when several people were on the beach, an Emu charged across the sand, avoiding fishermen and walkers, and covering a great distance at an astonishing pace.

Basin Beach, looking for Ruddy Turnstones

At Yambuk many of our group remained near the car park in a picnic shelter enjoying the scenery and wildlife in the area. On the way back to Port Fairy most members called in to visit The Crags where the coastline is at its most rugged. The Victoria Hotel in Port Fairy was booked for dinner and most members attended.

Sunday's meeting point was at the Basin Beach car park three kilometres east of Killarney Beach. Overnight a cool change arrived accompanied by rain and strong southwest winds. Did we need a plan B? Hopefully not for Field Nats. We rugged up and pressed on and luckily the rain held off.


Striated Fieldwren

On walking down the short path to the beach, those in the lead stopped when they spied the shorebirds we had hoped to see. The Red-necked Stints and Sanderlings moved along the sand to the left and the Ruddy Turnstones disappeared around the cliffs to the right. The group spent about an hour in this area watching and photographing the birds as they went about their business of finding food in the huge heaps of beach washed seaweed some of which was trapped amongst the volcanic rocks on the shore. Other birds seen there included White-fronted Chats, Gannets, Cormorants and Pied Oystercatchers.

The Basin Beach was relatively sheltered but Killarney Beach, our next destination, was not and few animals of any kind were on the beach. Walking back to our cars in the car park a bird call was heard, and it turned out to be made by a Striated Fieldwren clinging to the branches of a small shrub.

Although it was not yet midday, we made our way to Tower Hill and it was decided to have lunch early. A man-made windbreak was in the picnic area so most of us crowded around it to avoid the strong wind while eating lunch. Soon after lunch, members explored the picnic area finding many Koalas in the trees before walking the Lava Tongue Track, enjoying the varied plant life and spying some of the small bush birds which live there.

A koala at Tower Hill

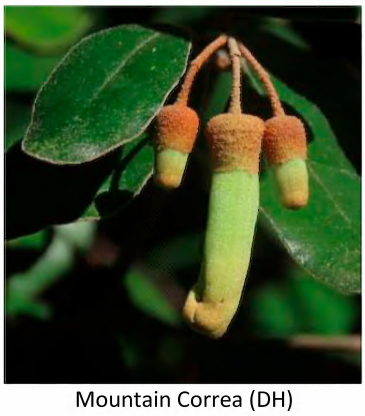
On leaving the Park, many members stopped where they could beside the lake, to see Great Crested Grebes, Australian Shovelers, Blue-billed, Pink-eared and Musk Ducks along with more common water birds such as Grey and Chestnut Teal and Eurasian Coots.

So ended a weekend where lots of wildlife was observed in a very lovely area of Victoria.

By Inta & Roger Needham

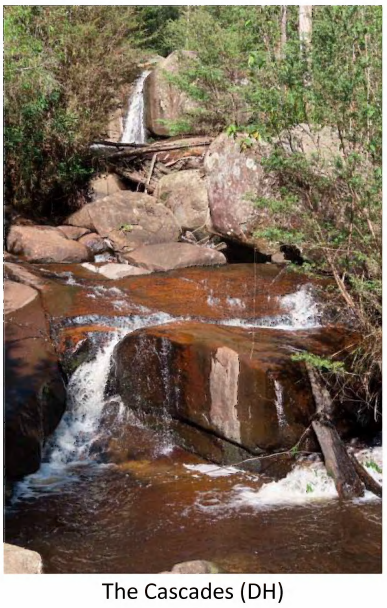
Murrindindi

Saturday 12th April 2025
Leaders: Lynn Smith


Mountain Correa (DH)

We were lucky with the weather, and it was a warm sunny day in April with blue skies and 23 members attended. We met at the Suspension Bridge car park at 10.30am and walked across the suspension bridge. After climbing over a large fallen tree, we walked along the Murrindindi River walking track. Several people were lucky enough to see a Bassian Thrush. There were several butterflies including male and female Common Browns flying about in the sun. One female butterfly was seen laying her eggs. *Correa lawrenciana* or Mountain Correa was in flower.

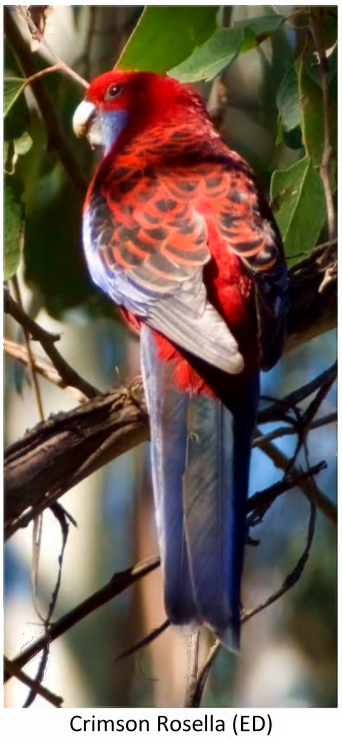
We walked about 1km to the SEC campsite and crossed the bridge over the river then returned to the carpark via the same track. Bird sightings of Eastern Yellow Robin, Eastern Whipbird, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Spinebill, Silvereye, White-throated Treecreeper, Crimson Rosella, Grey Fantail along the river track.


The Cascades (DH)

At lunch we saw 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles flying overhead. After lunch we drove 9km to the Cascades car park and then walked 600m downhill to view the Cascades. Water flowing over large rocks looked impressive. The vegetation here is different and is Cool Temperate Rainforest. A few fungi species were seen.

It was a very enjoyable day with lovely sunny weather.

By Lynn Smith (photos by Eleanor Dilley and David Hewitt)


Crimson Rosella (ED)

Fungi and a Long-legged Ant (ED)

Eastern Yellow Robin (ED)

Jack's Beach

Thursday 1st May 2025
Leaders: Inta & Roger Needham

Eight members met at Jacks Beach car park for a day out near Western Port Bay. It was a perfect autumn day – clear sky, very little breeze and a comfortable temperature.

We first took the track to the right which led 200m to Jacks Beach. Well beach is hardly the word for it. A couple of patches of mangrove have been removed and two rough boat ramps have been constructed but it does allow great views across the vast flat landscape of sea grass beds at low tide. Sandstone Island to the east, Hastings township and BHP rolling mills to the north and French and Phillip Islands to the southeast.

Low tide at Jack's Beach

On the sea grass meadows were many flocks of birds including Australian Pelicans, Black Swans, White-faced Herons, Australian White Ibis, Silver Gulls and a small number of Hoary-headed Grebes and a Great Egret. A big surprise was the appearance of a Sacred Kingfisher perched atop a tall pole next to a boat ramp. In the bush along the path to the beach we saw Superb Fairy-wrens and a White-eared Honeyeater.

The track left from the car park led to a boardwalk which crosses the saltmarsh and extends 4km to Hastings. We walked along the boardwalk for about 500 metres observing the variety of saltmarsh plants which are normally difficult to access. Inland of the saltmarsh on an old foredune were boobiallas, paperbarks, tea trees and Rough-barked Manna Gums. In this bush we saw White-eared, New Holland and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, while overhead we observed a flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and Pacific Black Ducks. Back at the car park were Galahs, Noisy Miners and Rainbow Lorikeets.

We then drove further south to Woolleys Beach Picnic Area where we were able to look out over Westernport toward Tortoise Head on French Island, Rhyll on Phillip Island and Coronet Bay in the far distance. The picnic area is located beside the Crib Point wharf. The tide was in so fewer birds were seen, mostly Black Swans on the water but lots of Cormorants and Silver Gulls on the wharf.

We lunched at the picnic tables here and were watched over by 3 hungry Grey Butcherbirds. After lunch we walked the 400metres to the Sand Boat Ramp Picnic Area through bush which had Sweet Bursaria, Coastal She-oaks and Rough-barked Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis* var *pryoriana*)

At about 1.45pmm, a few people stayed but others made their way home. All agreed that it had been a great day out at an interesting and scenic location on a perfect day.

By Inta & Roger Needham

Witton's Reserve

Sunday 18th May 2025
Leaders: Eeva & David Hewitt

Twenty-four members attended Witton's Reserve on a beautiful sunny, but cool day (about 10-12°). The reserve was declared a part of Warrandyte State Park in 1997 and it forms an important part of a wild-life corridor along the Yarra River.

The walk starts at the junction of Brushy Creek with the Yarra River – a site associated with the birth of William Barak. We took part of a loop walk which passes over the summit of Mt Lofty (height 130m). Although the month has been one of the driest Mays on record, there was some interesting vegetation including *Dawsonia logiseta* with good displays of spore-containing capsules and we managed to sight about 20 different bird species.

Dawsonia logiseta capsules

Golden Whistler (f)

Funnel web

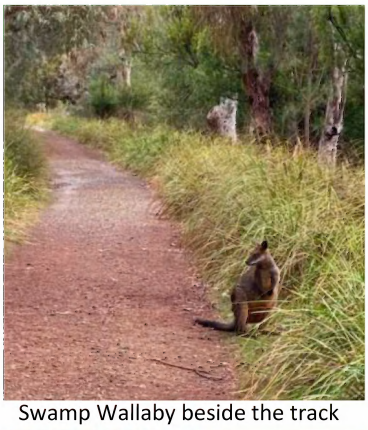
Long billed Corella

By Eeva & David Hewitt

Churchill National Park

Saturday 14th June 2025
Leaders: Lynn & Neal Smith

It was a cold winters day, but the sun was shining. When we arrived at the lower car park there were Superb Fairy Wrens hopping around the grassed area and an Eastern Yellow Robin was on the post in front of the car. Then Rainbow Lorikeets flew overhead so a good start for the day.



Swamp Wallaby beside the track

25 members met at the lower car park, and we walked up to Channel track. This follows the old aqueduct built in 1920's to supply water to Dandenong. Some fungi and birds seen along this track. At Bayview track members had a choice of tracks: either walk uphill or the flat walk along Channel track back to the car park. Bayview track offered a view over Lysterfield and surrounding area.

Along the return track we saw Mistletoes (Grey Mistletoe) in flower and several birds including Rosellas, Eastern Spinebill and a Golden Whistler. We returned to lower car park for lunch. Thanks to Barbara for her informative talk on the Swamp Wallaby.

A tree with two types of mistletoe growing on it

After lunch we walked around the Nature Trail and thanks to Angela saw 2 Tawny Frogmouths. Also seen on this walk was a Grey Butcherbird and Swamp Wallaby. Total of 22 birds for the day.

By Lynn & Neal Smith

Fungi seen on the Channel track

Grey Mistletoe – *Amyema quandang*

Bacchus Marsh

Sunday 13th July 2025
Leaders: Inta & Roger Needham

Following on from Judith's excellent talk on "The Earth Beneath Us", our excursion was to the Bacchus Marsh area which displays a rich geologic history. Twenty-two members braved the wintry conditions to assemble at Melton Reservoir Picnic Area at 10.30am. While waiting in the car park for the proceedings to get under way, two Peregrine Falcons were seen flying over and perching on a very tall Telstra tower. Other birds were also seen in the area.

After a welcome, Roger gave a briefing on the geological history of the area which included mention of the following:

- formation of the basement Ordovician sedimentary rocks of over 400million years ago and other more recent sedimentary deposits,
- the intrusion of magma into these sediments now exposed as the You Yang Ranges,
- the relatively recent lava flows over southern western Victoria 7 to 1 million years ago,
- the rejuvenation of rivers such as the Werribee over the last 2.5million years due to movements along the Rowsley and other fault lines which led to the formation of gorges along most streams in the region.

Briefing at Melton Reservoir

We next travelled to the Council Trench Reserve (Triassic Park) which preserves rocks of the Triassic age 201 to 251 million years old. Such Triassic rocks are rare in Victoria. There are several information boards at the Reserve which detail the geology and other aspects of the environment in the area. Most members walked the steep path to the top of the Reserve to view the landscape to the west which included the Western Freeway climbing up the Rowsley Scarp to the Pentland Hills, the Bacchus Marsh Basin in the foreground, the granitic You Yang Ranges and the shield volcano of Mt Cottrell to the south.

Information boards at the Council Trench Reserve

Our next destination was Mackenzies Flat Picnic Area located at the entrance to Lerderderg Gorge. We had lunch overlooking a pool on the Lerderderg River just prior to noon. As the excursion was a bit of a car trial, a few members became geographically embarrassed and arrived late for lunch. Since our recce, rain had fallen and the dry riverbed of a fortnight ago where Inta and I had been able to touch the glacial till, was now a pond, placing the till in the middle of the river and not accessible. Glacial till is material dropped from a glacier as it melts. In the Permian 252 to 299 million years ago, ice and glaciers covered most of the Earth. The glacier which carried this material originated in Antarctica which at the time was joined to Australia in Gondwana. The glacial till here was uncovered when the river was rejuvenated and cut into its bedrock. As all walks in the area require people to cross the river on stepping stones, we abandoned the idea of a walk and drove to Merrimu Reservoir about 8km distant.

The inaccessible glacial till (JA)

At Merrimu, glacial till could be seen across the water. Because the wind was very strong and conditions there were unpleasant our stay was quite brief.

Next location was at the southern end of Long Forest Road where we parked at a roadside gravel dump and walked the 500m or so to view Anthonys Cutting on the Old Western Highway. Here a 4-million-year-old lava flow from Mt Bullengarook over 15 km to the north, can be observed overlying terrestrial Tertiary sediments.

Anthonys Cutting

That was the last site to be visited, and members made their way home from that point. It was an excursion with a different focus to most we have had, and members said that they enjoyed the outing.

By Inta & Roger Needham (additional photo by Jack Airey)

Wattle Park

Thursday 28th August 2025
Leader: Shirley Smith

Twelve members and one visitor met at Whitehorse Artspace at Box Hill Town Hall to enjoy the Annemieke Mein: Nature Revealed exhibition. Annemieke would have made a very good member of Ringwood Field Naturalists given her interest in birds, insects, reptiles and fish. Her love of nature combined with her awe-inspiring talent with textiles is a joy to experience.

The day was cold, windy and wet but we decided to continue as planned to Wattle Park. Some people enjoyed an inside coffee at the Wattle Park Golf Club Café before a walk. There is a lot of work happening at Wattle Park with lots of trees being cut down, and new planting underway. The trams are being renovated and the work on a new playground, paths and barbeques is almost finished. The birds were in short supply given the weather and we only saw 9 very common ones. Our walk and our lunch were interrupted by showers.

By Shirley Smith

Yan Yean Reservoir & Ironbark Road

Saturday 6th September 2025
Leaders: Hazel & Alan Veevers

14 members enjoyed beautiful sunny conditions for their first Spring excursion of 2025. Starting by looking over the reservoir, lots of Coots and Hardheads could be seen along with a few Little Black and Little Pied Cormorants. Driving towards the wetlands a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo watched us from a nest hollow and 3 Musk Lorikeets shot overhead. On the wetlands, several other waterbirds were seen including Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes, Chestnut Teal and a lone Black Swan. However, small bushbirds were in short supply, no doubt partly due to the overabundance of Noisy Miners. Both Crimson and Eastern Rosellas were also seen in this area, though only one of each.

Hoary-headed Grebe

Nankeen Night Heron (ED)

Lunch was eaten at the top of the hill where members had a spectacular view over the reservoir to the hills beyond. It was good to see a number of Nankeen Night-Herons roosting in their regular tree next to the old caretaker's cottage. A most unusual sighting on the water was a raft of 30 Great Crested Grebes. They were difficult to ID to begin with (just their white tummies being visible), but thanks to powerful cameras they were able to be properly identified.

Our lunch spot overlooking the reservoir

Great Crested Grebes and Hardheads (ED)

Members then drove towards Ironbark Road, calling at Doreen Wetlands on the way. There they had close views of a female Darter and a Great Cormorant, as well as seeing a Grey Butcherbird and Rainbow Lorikeets. At Ironbark Road, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo was heard, and a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles flew overhead. Inside the reserve was a floral delight. Lots of Wattles were flowering as well as Correas, Hoveas and Hardenbergias. There was much excitement as 9 different types of Orchids were identified. These included Slaty Helmet Orchids and Blue Caladenias, the latter blooming in profusion.

This completed an excellent day in the bush with 44 bird species recorded as well as lots of beautiful flowers.

By Hazel & Alan Veevers (additional photos by Eleanor Dilley and Jack Airey)

Cyanicula caerulea – Blue Caladenia (JA)

Corybas incurvus – Slaty Helmet Orchid (JA)

Member's Articles

The Great Forest National Park

"The Central Highlands are the main stronghold for Critically Endangered Leadbeater's Possums. They need and deserve to be free from all kinds of exploitation, including the return of habitat logging.

Without permanent protection, we risk losing irreplaceable habitat and extraordinary wildlife.

A massive 84 per cent of Victorians* support new national parks. But special interest groups are drowning out the majority. So, as someone who knows how important this is please call on your elected reps to create the Great Forest National Park.

Help spread the word on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you for also being a voice for tiny Leadbeater's Possums and giant Mountain Ash."

Sarah Rees – Creative and Business Director for Great Forest National Park

Collage and text provided by Judith Cooke

The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve – fire recovery

On 19th and 20th December 2024, fire swept through the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve, threatening houses in the Woodland Close and Island View Road residential estates, and farming properties in the Gurdies and further afield. Around 192 hectares was burnt including 125 hectares in the northern section of the Gurdies reserve and 50 hectares of the nearby Hurdy Gurdy Nature Conservation Reserve. Firefighters managed to save all dwellings, although sheds and fences were lost.

https://www.basscoastpost.com/environment/in-the-line-of-fire

Community groups like Save Western Port Woodlands (SWPW) and the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) are leading post-fire recovery efforts, including monitoring wildlife, documenting the recovery process, and advocating for better nature protection in the area.

Five camera traps have been set up in the burn area near a large dam, which was fortunately untouched by fire. The motion-sensor cameras are strapped to trees to focus on bait stations containing a sticky mixture of rolled oats, peanut butter and golden syrup, designed to attract small mammals including wombats, wallabies, echidnas, possums and bush rats.

https://www.basscoastpost.com/environment/signs-of-life

SWPW has set up a project page on iNaturalist to record all biodata for the Western Port Woodlands. Any interested citizen scientist/photographer can provide valuable information by uploading images on the iNaturalist app. Over 7000 observations have already been recorded, with an incredible 1389 species noted.

Save Western Port Woodlands – website and Facebook page

Pterostylis nutans *Lagenophora stipitata* Genus *Amanita* *Glycine clandestina* *Acacia verticillata*

Species photographed from visit to The Gurdies and uploaded to iNaturalist 25th September 2025.

By Judith Cooke

Appendix

Port Fairy weekend away bird list – 86 species
Compiled by Inta & Roger Needham

Emu	Hoary-headed Grebe	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Black Swan	Great Crested Grebe	Red Wattlebird
Wood Duck	Short-tailed Shearwater	Singing Honeyeater
Australian Shoveler	Australasian Gannet	New Holland Honeyeater
Pacific Black Duck	Little Pied Cormorant	White-naped Honeyeater
Grey Teal	Little Black Cormorant	White-fronted Chat
Chestnut Teal	Great Cormorant	Striated Fieldwren
Pink-eared Duck	Black-faced Cormorant	White-browed Scrubwren
Blue-billed Duck	Straw-necked Ibis	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Musk Duck	Australian White Ibis	Brown Thornbill
Crested Pigeon	Royal Spoonbill	Grey Shrike-Thrush
Australian Spotted Crake	Nankeen Night Heron	Golden Whistler
Dusky Moorhen	White-faced Heron	Australian Magpie
Australasian Swamphen	Little Egret	Willie Wagtail
Eurasian Coot	Great Egret	Grey Fantail
Pied Stilt	Australian Pelican	Magpie-lark
Pied Oystercatcher	Black-shouldered Kite	Little Raven
Sooty Oystercatcher	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Little Grassbird
Hooded Plover	Brown Goshawk	Welcome Swallow
Masked Lapwing	Swamp Harrier	Fairy Martin
Double-banded Plover	Whistling Kite	Fork-tailed Swift
Red-capped Plover	Square-tailed Kite	Silvereye
Ruddy Turnstone	White-bellied Sea Eagle	Rock Pigeon
Red-necked Stint	Nankeen Kestrel	Spotted Dove
Sanderling	Australian Hobby	European Starling
Silver Gull	Brown Falcon	Common Myna
Pacific Gull	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Eurasian Blackbird
Kelp Gull	Galah	House Sparrow
Crested Tern	Long-billed Corella	

Murrindindi bird list – 21 species
Compiled by Lynn Smith

White-browed Scrubwren	Eastern Spinebill	Silvereye
Superb Fairywren	White-throated Treecreeper	Red Wattlebird
Grey Fantail	Bassian Thrush	Australian Raven
Eastern Whipbird	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Australian Magpie
Brown Thornbill	Crimson Rosella	Little Corella
White-eared Honeyeater	Eastern Yellow Robin	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Spotted Pardalote	Grey Currawong

Jack's Beach bird list – 36 species
Compiled by Inta & Roger Needham

Black Swan	Australian White Ibis	Brown Thornbill
Pacific Black Duck	White-faced Heron	Superb Fairywren
Masked Lapwing	Great Egret	White-eared Honeyeater
Silver Gull	Australian Pelican	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Crested Tern	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	New Holland Honeyeater
Hoary-headed Grebe	Galah	Noisy Miner
Little Pied Cormorant	Rainbow Lorikeet	Little Wattlebird
Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Rosella	Red Wattlebird
Great Cormorant	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Butcherbird
Pied Cormorant	Welcome Swallow	Australian Magpie
Little Raven	Grey Fantail	Willie Wagtail
Eastern Yellow Robin	Magpie Lark	Common Blackbird

Witton's Reserve bird list – 19 species
Compiled by Lynn Smith

Laughing Kookaburra	Superb Fairywren	White-eared Honeyeater
Long-billed Corella	Little Raven	Welcome Swallow
Pied Currawong	Grey Butcherbird	Spotted Pardalote
Golden Whistler	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-faced Heron
Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	Two raptors seen but no ID
Dusky Moorhen	Galah	
Australian Magpie	Crimson Rosella	

Churchill National Park bird list – 22 species
Compiled by Lynn Smith

Eastern Yellow Robin	Red Wattlebird	Noisy Miner
Superb Fairywren	Little Wattlebird	Golden Whistler
Rainbow Lorikeet	New Holland Honeyeater	Crimson Rosella
Australian Magpie	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Eastern Rosella
Little Raven	White-eared Honeyeater	Grey Butcherbird
Grey Fantail	Eastern Spinebill	Tawny Frogmouth
Brown Thornbill	Silvereye	
Grey Shrike-thrush	Spotted Pardalote	

Bacchus March (Melton Reservoir and beyond) bird list – 32 species
Compiled by Inta & Roger Needham

Whistling Kite	Rainbow Lorikeet	Spotted pardalote
Peregrine Falcon	Eurasian Coot	Yellow Thornbill
Little Eagle	Australasian Darter	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Black Swan	White-plumed Honeyeater
Brown Falcon	Australian Pelican	Superb Fairywren
Little Raven	Straw-necked Ibis	Willy Wagtail
Grey Currawong	Australian Magpie	Welcome Swallow
Pied Currawong	Magpie Lark	Rock Dove
Galah	Crested Pigeon	Common Starling
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Red Wattlebird	House Sparrow
Crimson Rosella	Grey Shrike-thrush	

Yan Yean Reservoir & Ironbark Road bird list – 44 species
Compiled by Hazel & Alan Veevers

Black Swan	Masked Lapwing	Red Wattlebird
Hardhead	Nankeen Night-Heron	Noisy Miner
Pacific Black Duck	Australian Pelican	Spotted Pardalote
Grey Teal	Straw-necked Ibis	Brown Thornbill
Chestnut Teal	Little Pied Cormorant	Pied Currawong
Australian Wood Duck	Great Cormorant	Australian Magpie
Australasian Grebe	Little Black Cormorant	Grey Butcherbird
Hoary-headed Grebe	Australasian Darter	Willie Wagtail
Great Crested Grebe	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Grey Fantail
Spotted Dove	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Little Raven
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Crimson Rosella	Magpie-lark
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Eastern Rosella	Welcome Swallow
Purple Swamphen	Musk Lorikeet	Common Starling
Dusky Moorhen	Rainbow Lorikeet	Common Mynah
Eurasian Coot	Superb Fairy-wren	

Ironbark Road orchid list – 9 species
Compiled by Jack Airey

Acianthus pusillus – Small Mosquito Orchid	*Pterostylis curta* – Blunt Greenhood
Corybas incurvus – Slaty Helmet Orchid	*Pterostylis melagramma* – Tall Greenhood
Cyanicula caerulea – Blue Caladenia/Fairies	*Pterostylis nutans* – Nodding Greenhood
Diuris pardina – Leopard Orchid	*Pterostylis pedunculata* - Maroonhood
Pterostylis concinna – Trim Greenhood	